

SITS ON

THE BEAR

THEY

A BYELORUSSIAN FOLK SONG





THE BEAR  
SITS ON  
THE LOG

A BYELORUSSIAN  
FOLK  
SONG

Translated from the Byelorussian  
by WALTER MAY

Illustrated  
by T. BERESENSKAYA

«Mastatskaya Litaratura»  
Publishing House  
1980



*The bear sits on the log and sews  
A hat, with embroidery twining,*





*His little sons, the baby bears,  
Prepare the silken lining.*





*And here the grey-head workman hare  
Begins to play on his fiddle,*





*And trickster-vixen, behind a bush,  
Is peeping out from the middle.*





*Merrily they begin the dancing.  
Magpies, black and white, start prancing,*





*And the crows, the old wives, fly  
Off to reap a sheaf of rye.*





*And the cuckoo, darling cuckoo,*

*Rye begins a-threshing.*





*The milking-cow, the milking-cow  
Carries the corn  
for crushing.*





The belly-goat grinds,  
The belly-goat  
grinds,





*The nanny-goat*

*pours in the grain.*





*The baby goats, the little kids,*





*Collect the flour again.*





*The fly mixes the flour,*





*The gnat brings water, hasty.*





*And now the little baby gnats  
All beg for a piece of pastry.*





